

The Specification

Please amended the paragraph starting at Line 14 of Page 3 as follows:

~~The invention has several important technical advantages. For example, one~~ One possible advantage of ~~the present invention is that it allows particular embodiments is allowing~~ for computing nodes to be reprovisioned on-the-fly to become a member of a virtual cluster for a distributed application, thereby possibly reducing provisioning times to fifteen seconds or less. Another possible advantage of ~~the present disclosure particular embodiments~~ may be a reduction in Information Technology (IT) hardware and maintenance costs by at least thirty percent. Moreover, when an application is not at a peak processing period, idles nodes of that application may be dynamically reallocated or reprovisioned to other distributed applications. Yet another possible advantage of particular embodiments is ~~that it provides providing~~ centralized capacity planning, performance monitoring, and simplified administration. Further, ~~the present invention particular embodiments~~ may allow for better node failure management. Various embodiments of the invention may have none, some, or all of these advantages. Other technical advantages of particular embodiments ~~the present invention will~~ may be readily apparent to one skilled in the art.

Please amended the paragraph starting at Line 20 of Page 20 as follows:

Method 200 begins at step 205, where dynamic boot engine 105 determines that software application 114 ~~would~~ should be allocated more nodes 108. This determination may occur using any appropriate technique. For example, the administrator may manually add node 108 to the application environment for application 114. In another example, dynamic boot engine 105 may dynamically determine that nodes 108 may or should be used based on policies 132. Next, at step 210, dynamic boot engine 105 determines if there are any unutilized computing nodes 108 available. If there are more nodes 108 available, then dynamic boot engine 105 selects first available computing node 108 using any suitable technique at step 215. For example, dynamic boot engine 105 may select node 108 based on physical location, virtual location, application 114 compatibility, processor speed, or any other suitable characteristic. At decisional step 220, dynamic boot engine 105 determines if the selected node is compatible with application 114. If node 108 is not compatible with application 114, then dynamic boot engine 105 brings down the selected node using any suitable technique at step 225. Next, dynamic boot engine 105 dynamically selects policy 132 based on the software application 114 at step 230. For example, dynamic boot engine 105 may determine that three nodes 108 are currently executing software application 114. Based on this determination,

dynamic boot engine 105 locates the fourth logical node 108 in policy 132. Based on the selected policy 132, dynamic boot engine 105 flashes the selected node with a pointer to a new boot image 131 at step 235 and associates virtual local disk image 134 at step 237. As described above, dynamic boot engine 105 may flash EEPROM 111 or any other suitable component. Next, dynamic boot engine 105 boots the selected node 108 using the new boot image 131 at step 240. Once the node 108 has been rebooted (or if the node was already compatible with application 114), then dynamic boot engine 105 executes application 114 on the selected node 108 at step 245 and method 200 ends.